

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 26, 2005 has been carefully considered. In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22-33, 38, 39, 43, 46, 47 and 51 were rejected on indefiniteness and/or prior art grounds; claims 3-6, 20, 21, 34-37, 48-50 were indicated to be allowable but were objected to as being in dependent format; and claims 12, 14, 17, 40-42 and 44 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species pending the allowance of a generic claim. By way of this amendment, the specification has been amended and claims 1, 4, 9, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 43, 49 and 50 have been amended. Claims 3, 18, 20, 28, 34 and 48 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-17, 19, 21-27, 29-33, 35-47, and 49-51 remain pending in the present patent application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

First turning to the formal issues, various objections to the specification have been advanced. In particular at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has noted four informalities with the specification. Each of these formalities has been corrected by way of the amendments to the specification above. It is noted that since reference characters 26c-e did not appear in the drawings, page 5, ¶ 49 and 50 have been amended accordingly to delete those reference characters and make this section clear and consistent with the drawings. The other amendments to the specification are straightforward and comport with suggestions and notations of the Examiner in the Office Action.

With respect to the objections to the drawings, Applicant has amended the specification to render the drawing objections moot. In particular, with reference to the first and second conical surfaces noted in claims 9 and 24, Applicant references the Examiner's attention to FIG. 35 and ¶ 69 of the application at page 10 where corresponding chamfered surfaces 227 and 229 on the collar portion in the mounting plate are described as preventing the mounting plate from dropping through the collar portion thereby providing for vertical engagement in one axial direction. The conical surface would be one form of a chamfered surface. However, to clarify the situation, claims 9, 24 and 32 have been amended to comport the language of these claims to that used in the specification, which is believed to be somewhat slightly broader than the original claimed subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests this drawing objection to be removed. As it pertains to the alleged double use reference no. 222 as to the collar and the mounting plate, it is noted that there is a clerical error in the specification and that 222 is now only used to designate a collar in the

specification; amendments have been made to consistently use 224 with the mounting plate at the lines and page numbers noted by the patent Examiner. Accordingly, this drawing objection is also obviated and now moot.

Turning then to the claim objection of claim 31 at page 4 of the Office Action, the patent Examiner has asserted that claim 31 fails to limit the scope of a previous claim. Accordingly, claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 30 rather than claim 32. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the claim objection to claim 31 be withdrawn.

As it pertains to the indefiniteness rejections under § 112 at page 4 of the Office Action, the patent Examiner has asserted that claims 9, 24 and 32 fail to comply with the enablement requirement, and that neither the specification nor drawings provide support for first and second generally conical surfaces with vertical interference. As noted above, Applicant has changed the phrase "conical" to "chamfered" to comport the claim language to that used in the specification. In this regard, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to FIG. 35 which is a cross-section of the collar and mounting plate and in which reference characters 227 and 229 indicate the corresponding chamfered surfaces for vertical interference and retention in one direction. Accordingly, in view of the amendment and the above explanation, Applicant respectfully requests the indefiniteness rejections of claims 9, 24 and 32 to be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11, 13, 15, 16 and 18-26 have been rejected as indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear what the attachment is adapting to position the router relative to. While Applicant disagrees in that it would inherently refer to the workpiece, the adapted to language has simply been deleted from these claims rendering the rejection moot. Additionally with respect to claim 16, line 6 relating to "second vertical engagement first means," this is a typographical error and has been amended to recite "second vertical engagement means" to differentiate from the "first vertical engagement means" previously recited. Accordingly, this rejection should now be obviated as well.

Now that all of the formalities have been dealt with above, Applicant now turns to the rejections based on the cited art. As to the rejections on the prior art, Applicant thanks the patent Examiner for the indication of allowance of various claims including dependent claims 3, 20, 34 and 48. By way of this amendment, Applicant has incorporated all of the claim recitations of each of allowed dependent claims 3, 20, 34 and 48 into the base independent claims 1, 15, 27 and 43, to include any base recitations of any additional intermediate dependent claims. Accordingly, all of the independent claims now include subject matter

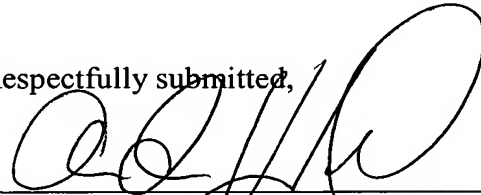
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indicated to be allowed in the last Office Action. As a result, all of the prior art rejections are now moot and all claims are in condition for allowance. It is noted these amendments are without prejudice and that a separate continuation application is currently co-pending. In any event, Applicant respectfully requests an allowance of all claims, and that all withdrawn claims be reinstated in the patent application as allowable generic claims are now present.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 22, 2005